



HR0418

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Leading health and nutrition experts agree that
3 nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that
4 good nutrition and good patient health can keep people healthy
5 and out of institutionalized health care facilities, thus
6 reducing healthcare costs; and

7 WHEREAS, Inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as
8 malnutrition, is not routinely viewed as a medical concern in
9 the U.S., and that malnutrition is particularly prevalent in
10 vulnerable populations, such as older adults, hospitalized
11 patients, or minority populations that statistically shoulder
12 the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses
13 such as diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in
16 the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications that
17 impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from
18 surgery, illness, or disease; the elderly lose lean body mass
19 more quickly and to a greater extent than younger adults and
20 weight assessment (body weight and body mass index) can
21 overlook accurate indicators of lean body mass; and

22 WHEREAS, The American Nursing Association defines

1 therapeutic nutrition as the administration of food and fluids
2 to support the metabolic processes of a patient who is
3 malnourished or at high risk of becoming malnourished; and

4 WHEREAS, Access to therapeutic nutrition is critical in
5 restoring lean body mass such that it resolves malnutrition
6 challenges and, in turn, improves clinical outcomes, reduces
7 health care costs, and can keep people and our communities
8 healthy; and

9 WHEREAS, Despite the recognized link between good
10 nutrition and good health, nutritional screening and
11 therapeutic nutrition treatments have not been incorporated as
12 routine medical treatments across the spectrum of health care;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we encourage states that provide Medicaid coverage to examine
17 the benefits of routine nutritional screening and therapeutic
18 nutrition treatment for those who are malnourished or at risk
19 for malnutrition, as well as examine the benefits of nutrition
20 screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment as part of the
21 standard for evidenced-based hospital care; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That we support an increased emphasis on

1 nutrition through the reauthorization of the Older Americans
2 Act, as well as for Medicare beneficiaries, to improve their
3 disease management and health outcomes; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we encourage preventive and wellness
5 services, such as counseling for obesity and chronic disease
6 management, to be a part of the Essential Health Benefits
7 package included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
8 Act; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to
10 the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the
11 United States, members of the Illinois delegation of United
12 States House of Representatives, Illinois Senators Richard J.
13 Durbin and Mark Kirk, and other federal and state government
14 officials as appropriate.